



*The Commonwealth of Massachusetts*

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
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March 21, 2015

Dr. Stuart Altman, Chairman  
Massachusetts Health Policy Commission  
50 Milk Street, 8th Floor  
Boston, MA 02109

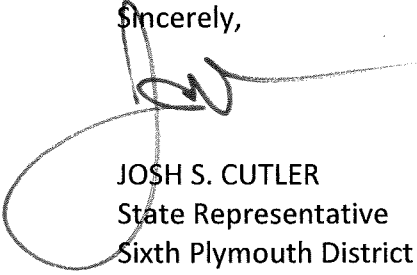
Dear Chairman Altman,

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comments on implementation of *An act relative to patient limits in all hospital intensive care units (MGL c. 111, sec.231)*.

As the Health Policy Commission looks to promulgate regulations governing the implementation of this act, I want to be sure that the legislative intent of the law is reflected. In reviewing the proposed regulations, I have some concerns with what appears to be a departure from the intent of the legislation, which was a one patient to one nurse assignment with the ability to move to a two patient to one nurse assignment based on the stability of the patients as assessed by the direct care nurses in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU), with the assistance of an acuity tool. The acuity tool was intended to supplement, not replace, the clinical judgment of the staff nurses who would also be involved in both the development and approval of the acuity tool.

My colleagues and I unanimously approved any legislation to protect our state's most vulnerable patients. I respectfully request that regulations derived from this legislation not deviate from the clear legislative intent of the law.

Sincerely,

  
JOSH S. CUTLER  
State Representative  
Sixth Plymouth District